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Pentagon certain Walker spy case involves important security losses

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WASHINGTON — Pentagon officials say they have established, with reasonable certainty, one or two important security losses stemming from the Walker spy case.

These reportedly will not be disclosed because of uncertainty about whether the Soviets are specifically aware of them.

An authoritative source said that data passed to the Soviets included certain U.S. submarine patrol operations and how to monitor them.

But the source said no significant changes in submarine operations and deployment patterns had been ordered as a result of the investigation thus far.

The full extent of what has been lost in alleged spying by John A. Walker, Jr., since 1968 is still unknown as the Navy continues its damage assessment.

The FBI has arrested Mr. Walker, a onetime Navy communications specialist; his son, Michael, a Navy enlisted man, and his brother, Arthur J. Walker, a retired lieutenant commander. Further arrests are expected.

The FBI investigation of the case has spread to California, a Justice Department source confirmed yesterday. The source said an individual in that state has been implicated.

It was unclear what role that person was suspected of playing in the espionage activities allegedly carried on by the Walker family. John Walker served in the Navy in San Diego and could have established contacts there, the source indicated.

Up to now, the investigation has focused primarily on the Washington and Norfolk areas.

Meanwhile, a group that monitors the Ku Klux Klan said that Mr. Walker identified himself as state director of the Klan in Virginia on a radio talk show in 1980, *The New York Times* reported yesterday. And Bill Wilkinson, a former Klan

leader, said yesterday that he and Mr. Walker were close friends when they served together on a nuclear submarine, according to *The Times*. "I felt like he was a patriot," the paper quoted Mr. Wilkinson as saying. "I can recall cussing commies with him."

Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, cautioned yesterday against exaggerating losses to national security in the Walker case.

The Navy has "ways of getting around" problems caused by whatever the Soviet Union has learned, he said in an interview, and the alleged espionage should not result in any "major disadvantage" or change in the U.S.-Soviet naval balance.

"We definitely lost something," Admiral Moorer said. "But it was not catastrophic in my view. . . . I'm not falling on my sword about it."

Admiral Moorer was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1970 to 1974.

He sought to stress that the U.S. and Soviet fleets train and operate constantly in international waters, keeping the closest tabs on each

other. "Each can find out what the other is doing."

He dismissed speculation that spy data might have caused the Soviets to alter their submarine patterns, shifting to safer areas, and to develop longer-range missiles. This view was attributed in a published report to Adm. Bobby Inman, former naval intelligence director and deputy CIA director.

"I disagree with Bobby," Admiral Moorer said, pointing out that Soviet submarines have come closer to U.S. shores since the basing of new U.S. missiles in Europe.

The Soviets change their submarine patterns "for political reasons," Admiral Moorer said.

He said the effect of the alleged Walker spying would be to make the Soviets' tasks easier "and make our job more difficult." This is done by correlating scraps of information with data already in hand and arriving at a better estimate of U.S. naval capabilities.

"What worries me [more than actual loss of the secrets] is that we have Americans who would do that sort of thing," Admiral Moorer said.